

What we claim is:

1. A digital carrier for data storage, including on a first face an optical annular surface that can be read/written in a laser reading/writing device, wherein said carrier includes, centrally of
5 said annular surface, a body that can be magnetically attracted and wherein the face opposite to said first face in said carrier is wholly utilizable for printing visually perceptible characters, indicia and images.
10. 2. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has no through holes.
15. 3. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted comprises a disc.
20. 4. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted comprises a plurality of circular sectors or slices.
25. 5. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted is made of ferrous material.
30. 6. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted is made of a mixture of ferrous and non-ferrous material.
7. The carrier as claimed in claim 6, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted is made of rubber filled with ferrous material.
8. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body that can be magnetically attracted is located in a cavity provided in said carrier.
9. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, made of two or more superimposed bodies glued together.
10. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, made of a single one-layer body.
11. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein a center of said

annular surface coincides with a symmetry center of said carrier.

12. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein a center of said annular surface is eccentrically located with respect to a symmetry center of said carrier.

5 13. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, further including a magnetic strip and/or a chip and/or a bar code.

14. The carrier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said chip is received in a cavity of said carrier and is connected to a contact board accessible from outside said carrier.

10 15. The carrier as claimed in claim 14, wherein said annular surface is read/written from one side of said carrier, and said contact board is located on said one side.

15 16. The carrier as claimed in claim 14, wherein said annular surface is read/written from one side of said carrier, and said contact board is located on a carrier side opposite to said one side.

17. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, having a substantially parallelepiped shape.

18. The carrier as claimed in claim 17, conforming to ISO standards 7810/7816.

20 19. The carrier as claimed in claim 1, having a substantially cylindrical shape.

25 20. A laser reading and/or reading/writing device for reading/writing digital carriers having an optical annular surface storing data in a form readable/writable by said laser reading and/or reading/writing device, the device comprising a laser reading/writing head and a rotor for rotating said carrier, wherein said rotor comprises a substantially planar contact surface magnetically engaging said carrier.

30 21. The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said contact surface comprises a central cylindrical body capable of magnetically attracting or of being magnetically attracted, said

body being surrounded by an anti-slip ring of soft material, preferably rubber, said body and said ring having substantially coplanar contact surfaces.

22. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said cylindrical
5 body is a permanent magnet with a N-S axis parallel to a rotation axis of said rotor.

23. The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said cylindrical body is an electromagnet with a N-S axis parallel to a rotation axis of said rotor.

10 24. The device as claimed in claim 20, comprising a drawer for receiving said carrier to be read/written in said device, said drawer and/or said carrier having means for centering said annular surface with respect to a center of said rotor.

15 25. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said drawer comprises a depressed seat having the same shape as said carrier and arranged to receive a correspondingly shaped carrier.

20 26. The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said drawer comprises a depressed seat having a substantially rectangular shape and arranged to receive a correspondingly shaped carrier, and wherein said seat is so sized as to house a rectangular carrier having an optical annular surface centrally or eccentrically located with respect to a symmetry center of said rectangular carrier.

25 27. The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said drawer further comprises a first and a second additional depressed seat, of substantially circular shape, centered in correspondence of a rotation axis of said rotor, said seats having each a respective area corresponding to an area swept by said rectangular carrier during its rotation about said rotation axis when said rectangular carrier has an optical annular surface centrally or eccentrically located 30 with respect to the symmetry center of said carrier, respectively.

28. The device as claimed in claim 20, comprising a cover or a

bridge located above said laser reading/writing head and said rotor, said cover or said bridge including a pressure member axially aligned with a rotation axis of said rotor, said pressure member having a substantially planar contact surface including a 5 member capable of being magnetically attracted, and co-operating with the contact surface of said rotor to keep said digital carrier in engagement with said rotor.

29. The device as claimed in claim 20, comprising a cover or a bridge located above said laser reading/writing head and said 10 rotor, said cover or said bridge including a pressure member axially aligned with a rotation axis of said rotor, said pressure member having a substantially planar contact surface and a resilient member, such as a coil spring, to keep said contact surface pressed against said digital carrier, so that said contact 15 surface co-operates with the contact surface of said rotor to keep said digital carrier in engagement with said rotor.

30. The device as claimed in claim 28 or 29, wherein said substantially planar contact surface has a diameter greater than said body that can be magnetically attracted and preferably equal 20 to the outer diameter of said optical annular surface.